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The Importance of Collaboration

The Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors (TAWs) is a nonprofit organization whose members are Sponsors of PL-534, Pilot or PL-566 watershed projects within the State of Texas.

Sponsors in Texas include over 300 units of local government including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, counties, cities, water control and improvement districts, watershed authorities and other special purpose districts.

Benefits of Membership

The purpose of TAWs is to secure State and Federal Funding for watershed sponsors, foster communications among its members, educate and provide information to legislative, governmental and other groups to have a positive impact on the Small Watershed Program.

All watershed sponsors benefit from the work and activities of the organization, but that work wouldn't be possible without member support. Individuals, consulting engineers, and others who have an interest in the Small Watershed Program may also provide support through donations, meeting sponsorships, and memberships.

Networking Opportunities

TAWs semi-annual meetings provide opportunities to hear directly from state and national agencies that oversee the Small Watershed program. Meetings also include legislative updates from experts working on behalf of the program, and presentations focusing on projects from across the state. Sponsors and members are encouraged to share their stories and experiences.

The fall business meeting is held in conjunction with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation District Directors meeting.



TAWs Spring Meeting, March 2018

Learn More

Find more information about TAWs at www.texaswatersheds.org and Facebook using #TexasWatersheds.

Recent Highlights

Since its creation in 1995, TAWS has been effective in influencing the future of the Small Watershed Protection Program in Texas, has worked with the TCEQ in the development of the current dam safety rules, was instrumental in the initial approval and funding of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's Flood Control Program, and works closely with the National Watershed Coalition on Watershed issues at the national level.

Dam rehabilitation

The TSSWCB, USDA-NRCS, Plum Creek Conservation District, Hays County SWCD and Caldwell-Travis SWCD, partnered to conduct an \$8 million rehabilitation project in Kyle.



Plum Creek Site 6 Ribbon-Cutting, Kyle, Tx, October 2018

Influencing policy

TAWS members work closely with Texas and Federal agency representatives and the National Watershed Coalition to educate and inform leaders in Austin and in Washington DC about the benefits and needs of the Small Watershed Program.



Leadership Seminar in Washington, DC, December 2018



Wise County Commissioner Kevin Burns testifies to the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, June 2017



State legislative update to SWCDs and other watershed sponsors, Kercheval & Associates, October 2018.

Giving sponsors a voice

Over one hundred people from eight states and Washington, DC attended a *Watershed Program Procedures and Policies Seminar and NRCS Listening Session for Watershed Project Sponsors and Their Partners* in Decatur, Texas on September 18, 2018.



NRCS Listening Session, Decatur, Texas, September 2018